

Marine Corps Combat Development Command

EPA Region 3

Virginia
Prince William
Stafford
Fauquier
Quantico

EPA ID# VA1170024722

1st Congressional District

Last Update: November
2000

Other Names:
Quantico

Current Site Status

In February, 1999, EPA and the Navy entered into a Federal Facility Agreement to conduct studies and to examine ways to clean up at the Marine Corps Combat and Development Command. As a result, a total of 261 potential sites have been identified for further consideration, which starts with a Desktop Audit, with sampling as required. Currently, 138 are actively being investigated, in priority order, and 58 sites have been completed or deferred to another program.. Specific site work includes:

- **Old Landfill** - A Feasibility Study (FS) Report is currently being reviewed.
- **Former Rifle Range** - An ecological risk assessment is currently underway for the Former Rifle Range. The final RI for the Former Rifle Range is currently planned to be completed by September, 2000. Once the RI Report is finalized, an FS will be

prepared, and a Proposed Plan outlining cleanup alternatives will be issued.

- **Arsenic Burial Area** - The Proposed Plan is now open for public comments. The preferred remedy is No Further Action.
- **Pesticide Burial Area and Old Batch Plant** - The Records of Decision were signed in October 2000. Both were no action, however the PBA ROD includes monitoring for dieldrin in groundwater and the OBP ROD includes monitoring for pesticides & PCB in sediment.

Site Description

The Marine Corps Combat Development Command site (MCCDC) is a 56,000-acre military training facility that overlaps areas in Prince William, Northern Stafford, and Eastern Fauquier counties. The base is located in Quantico, Virginia, about 35 miles south of Washington, D.C. on the Potomac River. MCCDC is bordered by Prince William Forest Park to the north and the Potomac River to the east. The western and southern portions of the base include residential areas. Operations began at MCCDC in 1917, when the Department of Defense established a new Marine training camp. A large expansion in the size of the facility occurred in 1943. The MCCDC prepares Marine Corps officers for general combat by providing them with an understanding of technical operations and by performing research and development on military equipment.

Several areas of potential concern have been identified. One area, the Old Landfill, which was the primary landfill for the base from the 1920s until 1971, covers about 25 acres and is located along the west bank of the Potomac River. The northern portion of the Old Landfill, which was formally known as the Defense Reutilization Marketing Office Storage Yard, was used for the draining and storage of electrical transformers. Another area, the Recently Closed Landfill, accepted waste, including paints and solvents, from 1971 until 1983, and covers about 28 acres. The Old Batch Plant is a 30 feet by 50 feet area that was used in the 1970s for the storage of electrical transformers. The majority of the Old Batch Plant area is paved, and some of the paved areas are covered with soil. Surface water runoff from the Old Batch Plant area drains into the Potomac River. The Pesticide Burial Area consisted of a disposal pit measuring 16 feet in diameter and 8 feet deep. The Arsenic Burial Area was reportedly once used for the

disposal of 27 drums of an arsenic product used to control weed growth. The Former Rifle Range was the primary pistol and rifle training area for the base and was in operation for over 30 years. A total of 261 potential sites are identified, have been prioritized and are systematically being investigated.

Site Responsibility


The site is being addressed through Federal actions.

NPL Listing History

This site was proposed to the National Priorities List of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites requiring long term remedial action on May 01, 1993. The site was formally added to the list on May 31, 1994, making it eligible for federal cleanup funds.

Threats and Contaminants

Operations at the Old Landfill and DRMO have lead to polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and pesticide contamination of the soils, ground water, and sediments in the Potomac River. Soils, surface water and sediments in the vicinity of the Former Rifle Range was found to have been impacted by lead and copper from the ranges.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html> 

Cleanup Progress

This site is being addressed in a long-term remedial phase focusing on the cleanup of the entire site. A removal action was completed in March 1994 at the Pesticide Burial Area. A PCB removal action was completed in 1992, and a sediment control removal action was completed in January 1994 at the Old Landfill. An interim remedial action has been completed at the Old Landfill which includes a hot spot excavation, slope stabilization and construction of a two foot soil barrier layer. This action addressed the known principal threats posed by the site, which were contaminated soils and sediments in and around the drainage swale. This action minimized direct contact, inhalation and ingestion of contaminants posing a carcinogenic risk,

reduced migration of contaminants to groundwater, and restricted migration of contaminants to the adjacent Embayment. A PCB removal action was completed in 1992 at the Old Batch Plant. At the Former Rifle Range, a fence, a locked gate, and warning signs were constructed to restrict access. A total of 261 potential sites have been identified and prioritized, and are being systematically investigated. Investigations were initiated in 1998, and are scheduled to continue into the 2000's. These investigations range from a Desk Top Audit, to Desk Top Audit With Sampling, to Site Screening Process that utilized limited and focused investigations to determine if comprehensive RIs are required. The investigations range in scope from file reviews and visual inspections to the collection of multimedia environmental samples. Human Health and risk screening criteria are used as the primary decision making mechanisms in this process. Based on currently available resources it is planned that forty five of these investigations will be performed each year with individual sites either progressing to the next phase of investigation or being eliminated from the program. Currently, investigation and remedy selection at 5 significant sites are nearing completion, with long term cleanup actions possible. These areas include landfills, burial areas and a rifle range. The RI/FS for the Arsenic Burial Area is complete, as well as a Proposed Plan outlining cleanup alternatives. RODs for the Pesticide Burial Area and the Old Batch Plant have been signed. Both sites are no further action with monitoring of dieldrin in groundwater and no further action with monitoring of PCBs and pesticides in sediment respectively. Currently, 138 are actively being investigated, in priority order, and 58 sites have been completed or deferred.

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The detailed Administrative Record can be examined at the following locations:

John Musante Porter Memorial Library
2001 Parkway Blvd
Stafford, Virginia 22554

Chinn Park Regional Library
13065 Chin Park Drive
Prince William, Virginia 22193-5073

Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Branch
Facilities Division
Marine Corps Base
3040 McCawley Avenue, Suite 2
Quantico, Virginia 22134-5053